

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, comprising:
 - defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database;
 - mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are predefined data fields;
 - importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import map;
 - transferring the investment plan information to a central database accessible by the investment contract sellers authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information;
 - transferring the investment plan information from the central database to the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation by the authorized investment contract sellers; and
 - creating a proposed investment contract from the investment plan information received via the central database.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising transferring a seller authorization code identifying the investment contract sellers who are to be authorized by the investment contract buyers.
3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising creating particular database folders for each potential one of the investment contract sellers, and allowing the

1 investment contract sellers corresponding to the authorization code to receive the
2 investment plan information from their respective database folders.

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4 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising transmitting the proposed
5 investment contract to the investment contract seller who transferred the investment
6 plan information.

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8 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising notifying the investment
9 contract sellers of their respective authorizations to receive the investment plan
10 information from the central database.

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12 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
13 defining an export specification identifying database format
14 characteristics of an export file;
15 mapping data fields from the investment plan information received by
16 the investment contract sellers to a third database to create a data export map; and
17 exporting the investment plan information received by the investment
18 contract sellers to the data fields of the export file according to the export
19 specification and data export map.

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21 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising transferring system data
22 tables to the central database accessible by a central site administrator and
23 inaccessible to the investment contract sellers.

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25 8. A transaction processing system for facilitating financial transactions
26 between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, comprising:

27 (a) a central database accessible by the investment contract buyers and the
28 investment contract sellers;

29 (b) at least one computing device having storage, and a user interface to
30 interface to the computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a
31 display and means for entering data, and wherein the computing device comprises:

(1) import definition means for defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database accessible by the computing device;

(2) data mapping means for mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second database accessible by the computing device to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are predefined data fields;

(3) data importation means for importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import map;

(4) first data transfer means for transferring the investment plan information to the central database;

(5) seller identification means for identifying the investment contract sellers who are authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information; and

(c) wherein the central database comprises means for releasing the investment plan information to only the investment contract sellers identified by the investment contract buyers as authorized to receive the investment plan information.

9. The transaction processing system as in Claim 8, further comprising a second computing device having a storage, and a user interface to interface to the second computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a display and means for entering data, and wherein the second computing device comprises:

second data transfer means for transferring the investment plan information from the central database to the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation by the authorized investment contract sellers and upon release of the investment plan information; and

means for viewing the investment plan information received via the central database by the investment contract sellers.

1 10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions
2 for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment
3 contracts, the computer-executable instructions performing steps comprising:
4 defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of
5 investment plan information stored in a first database;
6 mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second
7 database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second
8 database are predefined data fields;
9 importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the
10 second database according to the import specification and data import map;
11 designating the investment contract sellers who are authorized by the
12 investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information;
13 transferring the investment plan information to a central database; and
14 releasing the investment plan information to the investment contract sellers
15 identified by the investment contract buyers as being authorized to receive the
16 investment plan information.